By the LORDS COMMITTEE appointed to consider of the Reports and Memorials of the Commissioners, for the Improvement of the Streets and Places near Westminster Hall and the Two Houses of Parliament, presented to the House on the 15th of February last, and report to the House; and to whom were referred the Reports, Plans, and Drawings, communicated by the Commons;

ORDERED TO REPORT,

THAT the Committee having met and considered of the Matters, referred to them, report as follows;

TWO Plans for the New Buildings which it is proposed to erect in the Neighbourhood of Westminster Abbey, have been submitted to the Inspection of Your Committee. In examining these, and in considering the various Suggestions connected with this Project, Your Committee think it proper to state the main Objects which they have constantly retained in view. These have been to preserve, or if possible, to encrease the Grandeur of Effect which is produced by the present Appearance of the Abbey; and to abstain from any Measure which might eventually interfere with any further Improvements. In order to assist the Accomplishment of these desirable Objects, the Attention of Your Committee has been directed not only to the Elevations and Designs for the Buildings themselves, but especially to the Situation which it is proposed they shall occupy.

Having repeatedly examined the Ground and the various Allignments traced thereon, Your Committee are of Opinion that it would be highly expedient to preserve, free from all Building, an extensive Area in Front of the Western End of the Abbey, for the Purpose of Convenience on Public Occasions, as well as for the Purpose of contributing to render the Entrance of the Church still more magnificent and imposing. This Opinion will be found to be entirely in Concurrence with the Statement of the Three Professional Persons, who were specially deputed by the Lords of His Majesty's Treasury in the beginning of the Year 1809, to consider and report on the Subject of the proposed Improvements*.

* Reports and Memorials of the Commissioners, printed February 1810, p. 110.

(38.) Your

1810 (HL 38) xxxv. 123.
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Your Committee therefore beg to ſuggeſt the Propriety of determining, that no New Building ſhould at preſent extend further to the Southward than a Line to be drawn throughthe Antæ of the Portico of the New Seſſions Houſe. They are of Opinion, that the Eaſtern Limit of this Line ſhould be One hundred and ten Feet from the Seſſions Houſe, and that to the Weſt, a Building ſhould be erected of ſimilar Extent and Appearance; and that the Buildings on each Side ſhould be faced with Stone or the beſt Stucco. It is of courſe underſtood, that any Building to the Eaſt of the Seſſions Houſe, is to form a Part of the ſame Maſs which is to be carried in a Northerly Direction to King Street.

With reſpect to the Architectural Elevation of theſe Edifices, a chaſte Simplicity of Deſign is to be preferred. This, if it fail to excite Admiration, will at leaſt eſcape Cenſure; it is moſt conſiſtent with a due Regard to Economy, and perhaps moſt favourable to the chief Object, to which the Attention of your Committee has been directed.

The Drawings which have been ſubmitted to your Committee poſſeſs, in their Opinion, few Claims to Profeſſional Knowledge or Taſte. Under the Neceſſity of ſelecting One, they recommend the Adoption of that to which is affixed the Device of a *Pig*; ſubject however to the Alterations already mentioned, as well as to others of Detail in its Execution.

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